

LABOR

PRACTICAL PRINTER DEFINED IN LETTER

Joe Johnson Writes Unique
Letter to President
Giving Views.

An open letter from Joseph M. Johnson, past president of the Columbia Typographical Union, to President Roosevelt, is the selection of a "practical printer" to succeed Mr. Sullivan, created great mirth and interest in labor circles last week. Mr. Johnson's letter is characteristic. He is a born wit, a capable printer and a man of deep thought.

His letter to the Chief Executive follows:

"To the Hon. President Roosevelt,

President of the United States.

"Dear Sir: I understand that you are

having more or less difficulty in arriv-

ing at the exact meaning of the term

practical printer. I admit it is a difficult

problem. Webster says that a printer is

a typesetter, but doesn't say that he is

practical. Of course I know that Web-

ster is in bad with you on spelling, but

there is a popular impression to the ef-

fect that he guessed the meaning of a

good many words.

"The Civil Service Commission im-

poses an educational test—that is, the

practical printer who is an applicant

for a position as compositor in the Gov-

ernment Printing Office is required to

do sums in arithmetic, make guesses at

abbreviations, and be able to spell some

words (according to Webster); he is re-

quired to decipher bad manuscript and

write an editorial on some question sug-

gested by the examiners; he is required

to keep his verbs and nouns on an am-

icable footing, and be able to tell the dif-

ference between an adverb and a

proverb.

"Of course a great many questions

asked by the examiners are of no prac-

tical value; others are not worth a rap,

but as the Civil Service Commission

does away with favoritism and recog-

nizes merit only I am going to try to

get along with it.

"But a practical printer is one who

can go into a composing room and stand

up to a case and set type Ben Franklin

fashion.

"He generally has a good opinion of

himself, knows that he is a better

printer than the foreman and he makes

that fact known to every one but the

foreman.

"Sometimes he is broke, but he is a

fellow of infinite resource and can gen-

erally dig up.

"He is able at all times, and without

a minute's rehearsal, to use expressive

English regarding what he considers the

shortcomings of the proof reader. His

training, surroundings and provocations

have rendered him letter perfect in that

particular. Of course you realize the im-

portance of pictures in expression, but

if you could have had the advantage of

printing office training and environment

you could say things to Congress never

dreamed of by Webster. As it is you are

handicapped. But you have been going

some.

"Of course there are many other minor

matters with which the average printer

is familiar, such, for instance, as being

able to travel by hand to the next town,

some also being able to prepare a gun-

muligan feast by the lonely roadside.

But these are merely accomplishments

and are not to be considered as essen-

tials.

"I have addressed this communication to

you in the hope of being able to as-

sume that in arriving at a conclusion as

to the meaning of a practical printer, and

because I am not a candidate for public

printer and am consequently lame.

"Respectfully,

"JOE M. JOHNSON."

Metal Workers Form Council

Branch of American Federation

Representatives of all the metal

trades met in Cincinnati recently and

formed an International Metal Trades

Council as a branch of the American

Federation of Labor and similar to the

building trades department recently

formed in this city.

International President James O'Con-

nell and E. L. Tucker, of Columbia

Lodge, were elected as delegates from

Columbia Lodge to represent the met-

alists of this city, but owing to press

of other business and the conference

here with respect to the Washington

navy yard and the proposed cut by the

Southern railway, they found it impos-

tics." This was the keynote of addresses by Charles W. Darr, attorney for the Carriage and Wagon Workers' Local, and by P. J. Ryan, attorney for the Central Labor Union, delivered to the 200 trades unionists gathered at the Carriage and Wagon Workers' smoker to celebrate the twenty-second month of the strike of that craft. There were many other speakers, and their sentiments were applauded.

"Regular order" was suspended at the last meeting of the Beer Wagon Drivers and they enjoyed a talk test with a little talk and something to smoke on the side.

Printing pressmen of the chapel comprising employees of the Government Printing Office will hold an important meeting in Typographical Temple this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Tuesday night's meeting of the Building Trades' Mechanic Council, to be held in Mechanics' Hall, Third and Pennsylvania avenue northwest, will be open. It has been announced that the council will celebrate the birthday of the building trades union, which has been formed early last March, when the present building trades trouble was brewing and the journeymen and master plumbers were holding "con-fab" on the interpretation of the arbitration award.

The Commercial Telegraphers' Union will hold its regular monthly meeting in Typographical Temple this afternoon and will elect a delegate to the international convention to be held in Milwaukee in the summer. Parker "Roosevelt" Anderson will probably represent the Washington local, as he was the only nominee at the last meeting. It is possible that other nominations will be made before the election, but this is improbable. Frank H. Lantz is the nominee for alternate.

W. W. Beattie, international president of the "Beattie's" Union, has been in Annapolis for several days past, looking after some pending legislation in the Maryland Legislature. A bill was introduced for the purpose of the telegraph companies, and it was in behalf of this measure that he made the trip. Superintendent Albright, of the Western Union Company, also made an argument before the committee having the bill in charge.

Columbia Lodge of Machinists, No. 174, I. A. of M., composed of the machinists employed at the Washington navy yard, gave an entertainment and dance in Odd Fellows Hall, Friday evening.

ARMY PAY BILL PASSED BY HOUSE

Carries Amendment of
\$5,000,000 to Raise Salaries
of the Men.

With an amendment carrying \$5,000,000 for the increase of the pay of enlisted men and noncommissioned officers of the army, the military appropriation bill was passed by the House yesterday afternoon.

Other items of increase in the measure did not fare so well. On a point of order by Mr. Mann of Illinois the appropriation of \$250,000 for the purchase of a target range of "6,000 acres of land near the city of Washington" for the use of the regular army and the District militia was stricken from the bill. This money would have been used to purchase a target range in either Virginia or Maryland.

Another paragraph that went out on the point of order, that it was new legislation, was the appropriation of \$50,000 for the construction of a post headquarters, engineer school, engineer library, and engineer museum in Washington.

The bill, which provides for the support of the entire military establishment of the United States, carries an aggregate of \$87,000,000.

OLD JACKSON HOME BILL REPORTED BY COMMITTEE

If a bill is passed which has been favorably reported by the Library Committee of the Senate, the Hermitage, the old home of Gen. Andrew Jackson, will be cared for and preserved. The bill appropriates \$25,000 to aid the Ladies' Hermitage Association of Tennessee in caring for and preserving the tomb and the old homestead and grounds of Andrew Jackson. The Hermitage is about six miles from Nashville, Tenn. The estate on which Jackson lived originally consisted of about 500 acres of land.

LUCCA, FAMOUS SINGER, IS DEAD IN AUSTRIA

GMUNDEN, Austria, Feb. 29.—Pauline Lucca, the famous opera singer, who was called the "only rival to Jennie Lind," died today.

She was a favorite of operagoers all over the world in the early seventies.

POLICEMAN GETS \$20

Policeman F. R. Emert, of the First Precinct, has received a check for \$20 for the arrest of Frank Krammer, who was called the "only rival to Jennie Lind," died today.

FRAUD ORDERS ISSUED AGAINST MANY CONCERNS

The Postoffice Department has put a variety of alleged fraudulent concerns out of business. Prof. Jules Maro, of Stamford, Conn., who was engaged in "astrological life reading," fell under the weight of the department's investigation and is no longer able to make use of the mails to conduct his business. It was shown that Tiras Wilson and H. S. Winterburn, two persons who know nothing about the sciences, it is said, had assumed the name of Prof. Maro, in order to "show" their fake readings.

Prof. Richard N. Faron, of Bridge-

FOREIGN AUTO RACERS ARE DRAWN BY HORSES

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Feb. 29.—The French car, Moto Bloc, and German car, Protos, covered seven miles between New Carlisle and Rolling Prairie in ten and eleven hours, respectively, today, the French machine and its pilot arriving at the latter place at 8 o'clock.

Both cars were pulled by horses. The night will be spent at Rolling Prairie, and an effort will be made to reach this city Sunday.

MABIE AT Y. M. C. A.

An address on "The Higher Uses of Business" will be given in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium building this evening by Hamilton W. Mabie, editor of the Outlook. The address is free.

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Classified Alphabetically

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Plain Ice Cream, 50 cents a Gallon.
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Boston Cafe and Lunch Room, 620 Penna. Ave. N.W. Under new management. Clinton A. Sells, Prop. Open all night. Meals cooked to order. Phone M. 2052. Also the No. 1 Martini Cafe.

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